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Measures to promote implementation of the international drug control treaties and to strengthen international cooperation in the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, including corruption; and proposals for new strategies, methods and practical activities in addressing the problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking, with due regard to the gender perspective

Review of the international drug control regime: strengthening United Nations machinery for drug control

Letter dated 1 June 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the Declaration of the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries concerning the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on international drug control, which was adopted on 20 May 1998 in Cartagena, Colombia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the Declaration circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 10 and 11 of the agenda of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Julio **Londoño Paredes**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: English]

Declaration on the special session of the General Assembly on international drug control issued by the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries in Cartagena de Indias on 20 May 1998

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegations of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries gathered at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on the occasion of the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries held on 19 and 10 May 1998,

Renewing the commitments agreed to by our Heads of State and/or Heads of Government during the Summit Meeting at Cartagena de Indias in October 1995, and

Reaffirming the agreements reached during the XII Ministerial Conference held in New Delhi in April 1997, as well as the contents of the communiqué issued by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs during the meeting held in New York on the occasion of the fifty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly, on 25 September 1997,

1. *Welcome* the celebration during the month of June of this year of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to the fight against illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities;

2. *Express* our determination to participate at an appropriate high level and in a spirit of mutual cooperation in the deliberations of the special session, recognizing the grave consequences of the world drug problem for the health and welfare of mankind, as well as its negative effects on society, the democratic institutions and the stability of nations;

3. *Strongly reaffirm* that international actions to counter the world drug problem are a common and shared responsibility to be carried out on the basis of an integrated and balanced approach, with full respect for the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States;

4. *Condemn* unilateral mechanisms to evaluate progress in the fight against illicit drugs and the application of coercive measures against the non-aligned member countries, and express support for multilateral arrangements through the existing United Nations organs;

5. *Declare* our commitment to work jointly with all other countries in the formulation of action-oriented international strategies for drug demand reduction, control of chemical precursors for the illicit manufacture of drugs, prevention of money laundering, as well as measures to eliminate or significantly reduce illicit crops and to promote alternative development programmes;

6. *Request* financial and technical resources by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the World Bank, regional banks and developed countries in support of viable projects of alternative development in the areas of illicit crop cultivation, with a view to create self-sustaining rural communities and facilitate their integration into the national economy;

7. *Call upon* all non-aligned countries to strengthen cooperation among judicial and law enforcement authorities and to increase the exchange of information leading to the identification, freezing, seizure and confiscation of the proceeds of crime;

8. *Call upon* the non-aligned countries which have not done so to become party to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, and in this respect, to adopt the national legislation and policy measures necessary for the full implementation of these conventions;

9. *Extend* our support for the work of the United Nations and its drug-control organs, in particular the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the International Narcotics Control Board, and call for strengthening their functioning in accordance with relevant international conventions;

10. *Note* with great concern the escalating levels of violence generated by armed bands of drug traffickers, terrorist organizations and other such criminal organizations involved in the international traffic and sale of drugs;

11. *Note* with alarm the increased production, traffic and consumption of synthetic drugs, in particular, amphetamine-type stimulants, a phenomenon which poses potentially serious effects for the social integration and development in the non-aligned countries;

12. *Reaffirm* the need for all non-aligned countries to combat the socio-economic conditions bearing upon the world drug problem, such as the lack of equal economic opportunities, unemployment, social marginalization and loss of ethical and family values;

13. *Call upon* the national authorities of the non-aligned countries dealing with youth affairs to promote educational programmes conveying the grave risks for personal well-being and negative impact on family values and social integration resulting from drug abuse. Youth must be provided with an adequate environment for growth leading to societies free of drugs;

14. *Declare* our resolve to extend all possible assistance and support to national programmes dealing with the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers, as well as to their incorporation into society;

15. *Express* our utmost confidence in the successful work of the coming special session of the United Nations General Assembly and resolve to contribute our best efforts to create viable arrangements for international cooperation in the fight against drugs, mindful of the great many lives lost on this account during the last two decades of this century.

Cartagena de Indias, 20 May 1998